

# 2016 Year in Review

## Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva

*Proudly Serving Arizona's 3rd Congressional  
District*

Lindner, Dan

2016

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## Welcome

Dear Friends,

As 2016 draws to a close, it's my pleasure to share some of my highlights of the year with you. We accomplished so much in the last year, from helping more than 1,040 constituents close their cases with federal agencies, to saving our community more than \$2.5 million in taxpayer money, to working with the administration in achieving lasting protections for the environment.

As we prepare for a new Congress and administration in 2017, I am as committed as ever to protecting the rights of our neighbors and the meeting the needs of our community. Many of the challenges we will face as a nation in the coming years will play out in our state and impact our lives directly. From immigration to healthcare to equal access to education and opportunities to rise, we as Arizonans must unite as a community and protect the most vulnerable among us.

We have a stake in all of these fights and so many more, and I am as devoted to finding solutions today as I was when my career in public service began more than four decades ago. I thank you for the privilege to serve, and welcome you to explore some highlights from my work in 2016.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raúl". The letter "R" is large and stylized, with a long tail that loops under the word. The "a" and "i" are smaller and more standard in script.

## Serving Our Community

### *January 15: PPEP – YouthBuild Americorps Graduation*

On January 15<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva joined the PPEP-YouthBuild Americorps graduation, an alternative school that focuses on vocational training for young adults in San Luis, Arizona. Rep. Grijalva spoke about the importance of securing resources for non-traditional and vocational schools.



*Rep. Grijalva Speaks at the PPEP-Youthbuild Americorps Graduation*



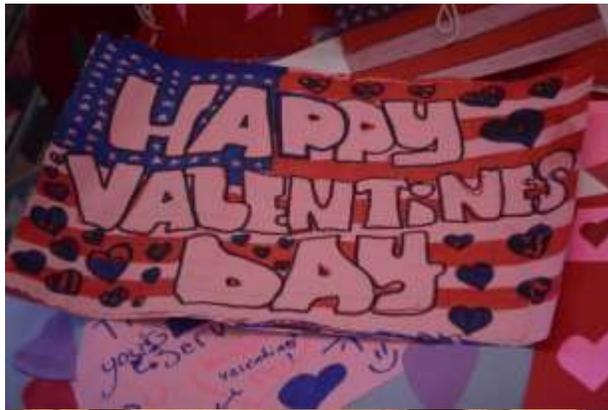
*Rep. Grijalva marking MLK Jr. Day*

### *January 18: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Rally*

On January 18<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva spoke at the traditional Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. rally and march in Tucson. Grijalva spoke about the challenges and social issues Americans are facing, but also of opportunities that – in the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr – we must strive for.

***February 14: Grijalva Leads Annual Valentines for Veterans Drive***

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva's Tucson office led its annual Valentines for Veterans drive, collecting cards from schools throughout Arizona's 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District and delivering them to local veterans. 2016 was the most successful year yet for the drive, with more than 6,225 valentines delivered to veterans when all of the cards were counted!



***February 17: Breaking Ground for Veterans Housing***

On February 17<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva spoke at two groundbreaking housing events hosted by the Primavera Foundation in Tucson: the Rally Point Apartments for homeless veterans and the Sunnyside Pointe Villas for low income residents. Both of these projects received federal grants by HUD.



*Rep. Grijalva Helping to Cut the Red Ribbon at Rally Point Housing*



*Rep. Grijalva Speaks at the Fisher House Dedication Ceremony*

***Feb. 19: Fisher House Dedication Ceremony***

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva spoke at the Fisher House Dedication Ceremony hosted by the Southern Arizona VA Health System, where approximately 30 new housing units were added to the existing facility in Tucson.

Read Rep. Grijalva's full statement about both of these events [here](#).

### ***March 9: Rep. Grijalva's State of the District Address***

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva delivered a State of the District address to the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce at the Tucson Convention Center. Grijalva's remarks touched on immigration, education, and economic policies. He focused specifically on economic engines for Arizona, such as strengthening our Ports of Entry to improve trade and commerce along the border, establishing economic corridors, and government's role in preparing a capable work force through education and training.



*Rep. Grijalva Delivers his State of the District Address to the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce*

### ***March 11: Rep. Grijalva Addresses the LULAC Youth Conference***



*Rep. Grijalva Addresses the LULAC Youth Conference*  
touched on include immigration, public education and college affordability.

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva spoke at the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Youth conference. 2,000 young students from southern Arizona gathered at Pima Community College in Tucson for the Annual LULAC Youth Conference to learn about life, education, and career choices. Rep. Grijalva spoke about the life choices he made as a young man that led him to serve in Congress, and about the decisions he weighs when he casts votes. Specific issues he



***March 19: Cesar Chavez March in Tucson***

Rep. Grijalva attended the annual Cesar Chavez march in Tucson.

Approximately 1,000 residents marched from Pueblo High School to Rudy Garcia Park for the annual event in honor of the labor and civil rights leader Cesar E. Chavez.

***April 6: Honoring "El Jefe"***

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva was the keynote speaker for a commemorative event in honor of "El Jefe," Southern Arizona's only resident and recorded jaguar, hosted by the Center for Biological Diversity. Rep. Grijalva spoke about the need to protect the Endangered Species Act as well as current legislation that protects public lands, water, and species.



### ***April 8: “Woman Who Inspires Me” Writing Contest***

On April 8<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva held an award ceremony for participants in his “Woman Who Inspire Me” essay contest. Grijalva organized the contest in March in honor of Women’s History Month. In response to the outpouring of entries received, Grijalva invited local women leaders within the community to join the ceremony in April.



### ***April 15: Grijalva Congratulates Local Students on Military Academy Appointments***

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva congratulated three students from Flowing Wells High School for receiving appointments to military service academies. Reed B. Harlow received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Anthony G. Iannacone received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Sierra Rodriguez received an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Grijalva’s Congressional staff presented all three appointees with Certificates of Congressional Recognition during a school assembly.

*“I’m thrilled to see three of our community’s finest rising leaders receiving appointments to U.S. military academies,” Rep. Grijalva said. “These appointments are a testament to the strong work ethic and tremendous drive that Reed, Anthony and Sierra have demonstrated in pursuing their dreams. I wish them all the best in their service, and look forward to their continued rise.”*

The full press release is available [here](#).



control issues.

#### ***April 28: Nogales Wash Stakeholder Meeting***

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva’s staff attended a stakeholder meeting in Nogales, Arizona about the future of the Nogales Wash and surrounding infrastructure needs. The meeting brought together local, state, and federal staff to discuss the frail nature of the current infrastructure of the Nogales Wash under the Port of Entry, the remainder of the Nogales Wash, the International Outfall Interceptor, and flood

#### ***April 30: Celebrating Dr. Rudy Acuña’s Life’s Work in Civil Rights***

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva Raul introduced Dr. Rudy Acuña at the California State LULAC convention for his lifelong work in civil rights. Also known as the “godfather of Chicano Studies” in the US, Dr. Acuña has also authored many books, most notably “Occupied America,” which was the subject to the Mexican American Studies ban by the Arizona State Legislature in 2010. During his introduction, Rep. Grijalva praised Dr. Acuña for his efforts on immigration reform, college affordability, and pro DACA/DAPA



*Rep. Grijalva Introducing Dr. Rudy Acuna*

### ***May 17: Grijalva Announces the Winner of the Congressional Art Competition***

On May 17th, Rep. Grijalva announced the winner of the 2016 Congressional Act Competition for Arizona's 3rd Congressional District. Carolina Figueroa from Tucson High Magnet school took top honors with Contoured Happiness, a pencil drawing of her cousin. Carolina's reward was a free trip to Washington, D.C. to see her masterpiece hung in the U.S. Capitol building, where it will remain on display for one year.



*“Congratulations to Carolina and all of the more than twenty competitors who submitted works for the 2016 Congressional Art Competition,” Rep. Grijalva said. “The talent on display by each of the contestants this year is nothing short of remarkable. Each young artist shared a unique and inspiring vision – I could not be more proud to help share them with our community and the visitors to the Capitol.”*

Read Rep. Grijalva's full press release and see the top three entries [here](#).



*Rep. Grijalva Congratulates Graduates at Gila Bend High School*

### ***May 20: Graduation 2016***

Rep. Grijalva was the keynote speaker at Gila Bend High School's. Grijalva and his staff attended graduation events throughout Arizona's 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District in May.

### ***June 23: Grijalva Fights to Prevent Postal Consolidations Including Cherrybell in Tucson***

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Congressman Grijalva sent a letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, urging them to include strong language in the Postal Reform Act of 2016 that prevents unnecessary postal service consolidations in the final text of the bill.

Grijalva continued his aggressive push to protect Cherrybell from consolidation throughout the year, participating in a tour of the facility in October, and sending a [letter](#) on November 1<sup>st</sup> to urge action after the site visit.

Grijalva's previous work protecting Cherrybell is extensive:

- ✦ In February 2011, he wrote a [letter](#) to Postmaster Donahue concerning the need for the Tucson community to have proper input on the proposed closure of Cherrybell.
- ✦ In 2012 and again in 2015, Grijalva [introduced legislation](#) ensuring zip codes with high population growth – including Tucson – would not be subject to postal closures.
- ✦ In February 2013, he sent a [letter](#) to Postmaster General Donahoe urging transparency and the recognition of the Tucson community's adamant opposition to the facility closure.
- ✦ In July 2014, he led a [letter](#) opposing the announcement that the USPS would resume the closure and consolidation process of 82
- ✦ In October 2014, he led a [letter](#) signed by all five Arizona Democrats urging Postmaster General Donahoe reconsider consolidating the Tucson facility in light of USPS's lack of an impact analysis and public engagement on planned service standard changes.
- ✦ In March 2015, he joined five members of the Arizona Congressional Delegation in sending a bipartisan [letter](#) urging USPS enact a moratorium on continued consolidations.
- ✦ In August 2015, he led a [letter](#) to Postmaster Brennan informing her of an extensive community survey regarding the impacts of the consolidation of the Tucson.

The full press release and text of Rep. Grijalva's June 23<sup>rd</sup> letter are available [here](#).

### ***July 26: Grijalva Praises KidsCare Re-Opening***

On July 26<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Grijalva released a statement praising the reinstating of Arizona's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), also known as KidsCare. Enrollment in the program, which provides vital health coverage to children in low income families, had been frozen since 2010, making Arizona the only state in the Union not to offer a CHIP program for needy children.

*"I'm thrilled to see Arizona's KidsCare reinstated," Rep. Grijalva said. "When state politicians froze the program in 2010, more than 45,000 children gradually lost coverage; our state became 49th in the nation for its rate of uninsured children; and the rate of uninsurance among the former KidsCare income eligibility range rose to a striking 16.5 percent. So many of us were appalled at the harm this decision was causing the most vulnerable among us, and we fought hard over the past six years to make health coverage for our children a reality. Thanks to those efforts, an estimated 30,000-40,000 uninsured children living in our state have a chance at healthier lives and brighter futures, and our state has the opportunity to take back a misstep*

*that never should have lasted as long as it did. Both are good reasons for Arizonans to be celebrating today.”*

Congressman Grijalva had been a prominent voice calling for Arizona to restore KidsCare over the past six years. He slammed the political maneuvering on May 4th that excluded KidsCare from the State Budget, and highlighted a recent Grand Canyon Institute report demonstrating that in addition to long term health benefits for children, ending the freeze on enrollment would create approximately \$75 million in economic benefits for Arizona in FY2017 alone. Prior to that, he wrote State Senate President Andy Biggs in April, advising him that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) would cover the full cost of the program through 2017 and urging the program be reinstated. He opposed initial plans to freeze the program and has led efforts at the federal level since 2010 to reinstate the program.

Families interested in learning more about how to enroll can click [here](#) or call 1-855-HEA-PLUS (1-855-432-7587).

### **August 8: Removing Lead Paint from Our Community**

Tucson Mayor Johnathan Rothschild wrote to thank Rep. Grijalva for leading an effort in support of the City’s application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Lead Paint Hazard Control and Healthy Homes grant program. Tucson received a \$2.9 million award as a result to help prevent, control, abate and remediate lead-based paint hazards in high-risk areas of concentrated poverty.





*Rep. Grijalva celebrating NPS's centennial at Saguaro National Park*

### ***August 25: Celebrating the National Park Service's Centennial at Saguaro National Park***

On August 25, Rep. Grijalva celebrated the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service with a speech at Saguaro National Park. His remarks highlighted why it's important to increase NPS funding, permanently reauthorize conservation programs like the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and reject political efforts to weaken, subdivide or transfer federally protected areas.

### ***September 1: Leading the Bipartisan Call to Fund a Memorial for the 2011 Attack Targeting Former Rep. Gabby Giffords***

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, Rep. Grijalva led 32 Members of Congress in sending a bipartisan letter to President Barack Obama asking him to work with federal agencies to help identify and secure federal resources to assist the Tucson community create a permanent memorial for the victims of the January 8, 2011 attack targeting former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and her constituents.

Grijalva's letter envisions "a memorial that is not only a tribute to the fallen, but to the local and national response to a heartbreaking tragedy. It will be a place where visitors young and old can learn, not only about one horrific event, but about the resilience of a community and the durability of American democracy."

*"The January 8th Memorial is an important and necessary part of the Tucson community's healing process," Rep. Grijalva said. "We want to pay tribute to our neighbors who were lost that day, and to those who survived but will carry the scars and memories for the rest of their lives. But we also want to honor the solidarity that shone immediately here in Tucson and around the country. As Americans who pride ourselves on our differences, we can at times lose sight of our common cause. This attack, in all of its horror, remains a reminder that when it matters most, we are one people."*

The full text of the lawmakers' letter is available [here](#).

Rep. Grijalva's press release is available [here](#).

### ***September 16: Presenting Medals Earned in World War II***

On September 16th, Rep. Grijalva's staff presented the family of Mr. Paul Bope, a World War II Veteran the medals he earned during the war. Paul B. Bope enlisted in the United States Army on August 7, 1943. After completing basic training at Ft. McClelland, Alabama, he was assigned to the 45th Army Division, 90th Brigade, 2nd Battalion, 180 Infantry Regiment, Company G. Mr. Bope passed away on May 18, 1988.



### ***September 23: Fighting for Federal Funding for the Nogales Sanitation Project***

On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Rep. M. Grijalva filed an amendment to the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (H.R. 5303) requiring the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission to provide resources for Nogales Sanitation Project, including the International Outfall Interceptor (IOI), a major sewage line that runs from Nogales, Sonora under the Nogales Wash to a treatment plant in Rio Rico, Arizona.

The Army Corps of Engineers recommended a critical update to address issues of uncontrolled storm waters transporting garbage and contaminants to the U.S. city of Nogales. The pollutants pose public health risks and are exacerbated by annual storms and the unique problems associated with an international sewer line.

*"For too long, the people of Nogales have faced unnecessary health risks from uncontrolled waters and pollutants flowing through the Santa Cruz River," Rep. Grijalva said. "The amendment I submitted today would help ease the financial burden the City of Nogales faces in addressing this situation, and ensure the federal government upholds its responsibility to protect our citizens."*

Prior to the ban on earmarks, Grijalva worked each year starting in 2004 to secure funding for the Nogales Wash / Chula Vista and International Outflow Inceptor projects through the appropriations process. He included an authorization for additional appropriations in his Border Infrastructure and Jobs Act, first introduced in 2011.

Read Rep. Grijalva's full press release [here](#).

### ***October 3: Grijalva Reacts to Changes in Arizona Medicaid Program***

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Congressman Grijalva reacted to approval by Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for the continued operation of Arizona's Medicaid program with changes. CMS denied several changes requested by the state, including lifetime limits on coverage, work requirements, new cost-sharing for those below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and six-month lock-out periods. However, they permitted the state to move forward with a proposal known as the AHCCCS Choice Accountability Responsibility Engagement (CARE), which will set up health accounts and impose additional cost-sharing on those between 100-138% of FPL with potential dis-enrollment for lack of payment.

*"I am thankful for CMS's leadership in preventing some extremely harmful changes to our Medicaid program, however allowing low income individuals who can't afford additional payments to be disenrolled could have severe consequences," Rep. Grijalva said. "The benefits of expanding Medicaid are clear – to reverse course and go back down a road that will erode the program is a disservice to the people of Arizona. Medicaid dollars should go to care, they shouldn't be wasted on operation of CARE accounts or unnecessary enrollment burdens."*

*"The state's insistence on pushing policies that punish low income individuals only serves to endorse failed economic theories. I call on Arizona to work with CMS to ensure punitive new financial requirements don't lead to mass disenrollment of our expansion population," Rep. Grijalva added.*

Congressman Grijalva was a prominent voice urging CMS to reject many of the proposed changes to the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) program. In October 2015, he [urged](#) CMS to reject Arizona's new Medicaid waiver request on grounds that the state did not adequately fulfill its obligation to allow for meaningful public input. In December 2015, he led Arizona lawmakers in submitting formal [comments](#) urging the rejection of harmful changes.

Read Rep. Grijalva's full press release [here](#).

### ***November 8: Helping Local Veterans Share Their Stories***

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva's Tucson office welcomed local veterans from around the Tucson community to record their stories in honor of Veterans Day. Grijalva posted the videos on his Facebook account, and created a page on his website where constituents can view them anytime.



You can watch each veteran's story on Rep. Grijalva's website by clicking [here](#).

***November 10: Celebrating Veterans Day at Tucson Veterans Home***

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva joined veterans and their families at the Arizona State Veterans Home in Tucson.



*"No matter what side of the fence your political views are, we can all agree that taking care of our Veterans and Service Members will always be the priority of all Americans."* – Rep. Grijalva

***October 26: Grijalva Hosts Roundtable on Every Student Succeeds Act***

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva hosted U.S. Assistant Deputy Education Secretary Libia Gil for a roundtable discussion with parents, teachers, faculty members and students about the Every Student Succeeds Act, which replaced No Child Left Behind in re-authorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.



## Fighting for You in Washington

### Immigration

#### *January 8: Grijalva Demands an End to ICE Raids and Deportations*

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva and his fellow Congressional Progressive Caucus co-chair Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN) led their caucus in sending a letter to President Obama, denouncing recent midnight raids by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) targeting immigrant communities across the country.

The lawmakers' letter reads, in part:

*As Co-Chairs of the Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC) we understand our nation's need to enforce immigration laws, but we must not sacrifice the values that compel us to help those in need. According to recent reports, the Board of Immigration Appeals has delayed the deportations of some of the families who were granted emergency stays of removal because of ineffective assistance of counsel. We are deeply concerned that families are not getting the legal assistance they deserve.*

The full press release is available [here](#).

#### *February 11: Fighting to Hold the Priority Enforcement Program Accountable*

On February 11<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva joined forces with Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) to send a letter to Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson expressing concerns over the implementation of the Priority Enforcement Program (PEP), a policy intended to replace the embattled Secure Communities (SCOMM) program. SCOMM, which uses state and local resources to find and transfer individuals to ICE custody, faced resistance from numerous localities and civil rights organizations across the country, as well as ongoing litigation. Since the memorandum announcing PEP on November 20, 2014, the lawmakers note that little has been done to transition away from the aggressive tactics characterized by SCOMM.

*"SCOMM stitched fear into immigrant communities across the country, and unfairly made local authorities responsible for part of our nation's immigration enforcement system," Rep. Grijalva said. "ICE's aggressive pursuit of deportations through SCOMM came at the expense of vital trust in law enforcement for local communities. The promise of the PEP program was to end that scourge and begin to mend what damage was done by SCOMM, and that is a promise Secretary Johnson must deliver on."*

The letter reads in part:

*DHS has merely made minor stylistic changes to detainer requests and implemented those stylistic changes in jurisdictions that sought to limit their involvement with SCOMM...There is little evidence that ICE is following the directives and priorities laid out in your memoranda, or*

*that there is any oversight or accountability within the agency to follow the policies you established.*

The full press release is available [here](#).

#### ***April 28: Rep. Grijalva Leads Effort to Repeal Laws Criminalizing Immigrants***

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva introduced a resolution calling for immigration policies that reduce automatic deportation and detention, restore due process for immigrants, and repeal unnecessary barriers to legal immigration. The "Fix96 Resolution" marked 20 years since the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act and the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act were signed into law in 1996, dramatically expanding the criminalization of immigrants by broadening and easing deportation and detainment requirements, removing legal defenses and involving local law enforcement.

*"Two of the most egregious contributing factors to the criminalization of immigrants are laws that have been on the books for two decades now," Rep. Grijalva said. "The expansion of the term 'aggravated felony' has led to excessive detention and deportation for scores of immigrants. These unjust laws have splintered families and denied the right for judges to intervene through judicial review. Twenty years is far too long to cling to such broken and morally bankrupt policies. It's time to turn the page on this shameful period and ensure the human rights of every immigrant are respected."*

The full press release and text of the resolution are available [here](#).

#### ***July 14: Grijalva Introduces Legislation to Bring Deported Veterans Home***

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Grijalva introduced legislation to establish a veteran visa program which would permit eligible deported veterans to permanently return to the United States as a Lawful Permanent Resident eligible for naturalization.

A 2008 [report](#) issued by the Pentagon estimates that approximately 8,000 noncitizens enlist to serve our nation in uniform every year. While robust data does not exist on the number of service members who are deported for crimes as trivial as marijuana possession, advocates [estimate](#) that at least 2,000 veterans are now living in Northern Mexican border towns.

Grijalva's legislation comes one week after the American Civil Liberties Union of California released a report entitled "[Discharged, Then Discarded](#)," which highlights how veterans who served as far back as the war in Vietnam were later deported over punitive offenses, largely as a result of two draconian immigration laws passed in 1996: the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act and the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act.

*"The thought that people who have sacrificed so much for our nation's defense and safety are kicked out with such disregard is utterly appalling," Rep. Grijalva said. "When someone is willing*

*to lay down their life for the country they love, what more could we want in a fellow citizen? This bill is about ensuring every single veteran, regardless of where they were born, is treated with the same deference and respect that they all earned through their service in uniform.”*

The full press release and text of Rep. Grijalva’s legislation are available [here](#).

## **Private Prison and Detention Facilities**

### ***August 18: Reacting to DOJ’s Announced Phase Out of BOP Private Prison Facilities***

On August 18<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Grijalva released a statement responding to the Department of Justice announcement that it will end its use of private prison.

*“The Department of Justice announcement that it is ending its reliance on for-profit prison corporations is welcome news, but it is long overdue,” Rep. Grijalva said. “It is not breaking news that these facilities that have fueled mass incarceration in our country are more costly, less effective and more dangerous than those run by the government. I’m glad that DOJ has finally recognized these facts, but their actions alone are not enough. Until DHS and state governments around the country break ties with these corporations, justice in this country will continue to be undermined by private profit motives, and innocent people will continue to suffer.*

*“This isn’t simply unjust detainment – this is the exploitation of human captivity – including young children – for the sake of money. People die in these facilities because companies refuse to pay for adequate medical care. People starve because they have no other means of taking a stand against the injustices inmates face besides hunger strikes. These corporations are eroding the moral fabric of our nation. I urge all government actors with ties to this morally bankrupt industry to follow DOJ’s lead and end their contracts without delay.”*

Grijalva and Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) joined forces to introduce the [Justice Is Not For Sale Act](#) in September of 2015, which would ban private prisons, end family detention and remove Immigration and Custom Enforcement’s (ICE) daily mandate to fill 34,000 beds with detainees. In addition, the bill would reinstate the federal parole system, require ICE to improve monitoring of detention facilities, require ICE to use Alternatives to Detention, and increase oversight to prevent companies from overcharging inmates and their families for services like banking and telephone calls.

The full press release is available [here](#).

### ***August 22: Grijalva & Sanders Ask DHS to End For-Profit Prison Use***

Following the Department of Justice's recent decision to end its use of for-profit prisons, Rep. Grijalva and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) asked the Department of Homeland Security Monday to end its use of private, for-profit detention facilities.

*"Given the impact on detainees, the high cost to taxpayers and the Department of Justice's recent decision, we believe the Department of Homeland Security can and should immediately begin phasing out for-profit, privately run immigration detention facilities," Grijalva and Sanders wrote in a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson. "As each contract comes to the end of its term, the department should either decline to renew the contract or substantially reduce its scope."*

Community-based alternatives to detention are more cost-effective and provide the necessary resources to ensure undocumented immigrants complete immigration proceedings. Individuals in alternatives to detention appear in court 99 percent of the time and comply with removal 84 percent of the time. Increasing the use of alternatives to detention could save the federal government more than \$1.4 billion a year.

The full press release and text of the letter are available [here](#).

### ***August 29: Grijalva Responds to DHS Review of For-Profit Prison Use***

On August 29<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Grijalva issued statements today after Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson announced that the agency will review its use of private detention facilities.

*"I am glad the Department of Homeland Security is reviewing its reliance on the for-profit prison industry to detain immigrants to our country," Grijalva said. "This step is a tacit admission that the corporations who profit by locking up desperate adults and children undermine our decency as a nation. DOJ's announcement last week that it would cut ties with incarceration profiteers was welcome, but long overdue. I hope that DHS's review is a signal that they will follow suit. Until they do, their association with this industry will continue to besmirch their reputation as servants of the American people, and prolong the black eye that for-profit detention has given our nation's reputation around the world."*

Rep. Grijalva's full press release is available [here](#).

### ***September 7: Grijalva Responds to Teenager's Suicide in AZ Prison***

On September 7<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Grijalva expressed condolences over news that an 18-year-old inmate at Perryville Prison in Arizona committed suicide after being held in solitary confinement despite suffering from multiple mental illnesses. Mariam Abdullah took her own life on July 19th, merely a month after aging out of the minors unit and moving to the adult facility. Mariam met with an attorney

from Prison Law Office on May 24th and complained that she was not receiving the programming, unstructured out-of-cell time and mental health services required by law.

*“My heart breaks for young Mariam, for her family and her friends,” Rep. Grijalva said. “I extend my deepest condolences, but no amount of sympathy can give back the life that was lost here as a result of callous indifference and neglect. Our nation’s heavy-handed reliance on incarceration is well documented and continues to erode our ideals for a moral and just society. It promotes a culture within the system that ultimately allowed for this young girl to suffer in isolation while her medical needs went ignored.*

*“Solitary confinement is cruel and unusual punishment, period. We can do better in Arizona and around the country than to rely on such inhumane treatment – especially when the person in isolation is a child at the time. I urge the State of Arizona, and the officials whose actions and lack thereof directly impacted Mariam’s fate, to learn from this tragedy. There is a dire need for immediate evaluation of both mental and physical health standards and conditions in Arizona. Furthermore, it’s beyond time to end the use of unjustified and damaging solitary confinement, once and for all.”*

Rep. Grijalva’s full press release is available [here](#).

### ***September 19: Letter on USMS Private Prison Contracts***

On September 19, 2016 Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva and Senator Bernie Sanders sent a [letter](#) to Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch urging she direct the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) to follow the Bureau of Prisons’ (BOP) lead in phasing out private prison contracts as they come up for renewal.

The letter reads in part:

*We ask that you use your existing authority to hold USMS facilities to the same standards as BOP by immediately initiating a review of privately operated prison and detention centers under their jurisdiction and beginning a phase-out of all for-profit prison contracts moving forward.*

Rep. Grijalva released the following statement:

*“The Department of Justice’s decision directing the Bureau of Prisons to sever ties with the private prison industry was a vital and necessary first step towards ending our nation’s involvement with this morally reprehensible industry,” Rep. Grijalva said. “But it was exactly that – a first step. The DOJ should immediately build on this progress and review the U.S. Marshal Service’s for-profit prison contracts. They should disassociate from captivity profiteering immediately. A larger portion of USMS’s prison population sleeps on privately operated beds than BOP’s, making their use of private contractors an even greater concern. Until they, and others like the Department of Homeland Security do, our nation will remain ensnared in financial dealings that undermine our values and promote human suffering. That is simply unacceptable.”*

Rep. Grijalva's press release and the full text of the letter are available [here](#).

### ***September 29: Grijalva Leads Call for Moratorium on For-Profit Detention Contracts & Transparency in DHS Review***

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva sent a letter to Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson calling for a moratorium on for-profit detention centers and transparency in the upcoming review by a subcommittee of the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) over Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) reliance on for-profit immigrant detention centers.

*"I am glad that an HSAC subcommittee is finally reviewing ICE's reliance on for-profit detention centers, but the credibility of the review depends entirely on its transparency and objectivity,"*  
**Rep. Grijalva said.** *"Our nation's values hang in the balance of their findings. We cannot afford for this process to be undermined by an opaque investigation or by the influence of people who are financially invested in the outcome. Furthermore, the very fact that the policy is under review should mean a total moratorium on new contracts until the results are known."*

The full press release and text of the letter are available [here](#).

## **Fighting to Protect the LGBT Community**

### ***March 23: Fighting to End Transgender Detainee Abuse***

On March 23, Congressman Grijalva led 23 Representatives and 10 Senators in sending a letter to Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson, calling on him to protect transgender immigrant detainees from abuse, unreasonable strip searches, and sexual assault while in U.S. custody.

*"LGBT individuals face significant threats in ICE custody,"* **Grijalva said.** *"We are obligated to address the risks they face and ensure their safety in federal facilities. While DHS did create a policy to help protect this uniquely vulnerable population, they have neglected entirely to implement it. Half measures don't solve problems, and sadly this failure impacts the safety and wellbeing of people seeking refuge here in the U.S. from violence in their home country. If DHS can't provide a safe environment for the LGBT community – or any other group or individual – then we should end their detention immediately in favor of safer, community-based alternatives."*

The full press release is available [here](#).

### ***April 27: Grijalva Leads Bicameral, Bipartisan Effort to Add LGBT Data to Census Survey***

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Grijalva and Senator Tammy Baldwin led 70 members of the House of Representatives and 9 Senators in sending a bicameral, bipartisan letter to U.S. Census Bureau Director John Thompson urging for questions regarding sexual orientation and gender identity to be included on

the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is the key, ongoing, federally supported survey sent to roughly 3.5 million addresses every year to gather critical information about the United States as a nation and the people who call America home. While data is collected about respondents' race, ethnicity, sex, marital status, and other personal demographic information, no measure is taken of sexual orientation or gender identity. This data would be an important addition to understand the makeup and needs of the LGBT community.

The letter reads, in part:

*The current lack of population-based data on the LGBT community inhibits the creation of sound public policy as well as the delivery of effective programs and services to all Americans. Expanding and improving data collection and analysis about LGBT people is essential to better understanding the issues affecting our communities and to improve the health and well-being of all of our families.*

...

*[E]nsuring full inclusion of the LGBT population in our nation's data collection efforts is indispensable to addressing the discrimination against, and the general economic and social vulnerability facing LGBT Americans.*

Rep. Grijalva released the following statement:

*"The ACS plays a vital role in informing policymakers and the public at large about demographic trends within our populace," Rep. Grijalva said. "Our lack of sound data about the LGBT community means we are ill-prepared to detect and address threats facing LGBT individuals and the community at large. The Census Bureau has been a leader in addressing the needs of the LGBT community by improving the way relationship status is assessed and how the notion of a family is configured. We are asking Director Thompson to build on that success, and ensure the same vital information the ACS provides based on race, ethnicity, marital status and a host of other categories is also available based on sexual orientation and gender identity."*

Rep. Grijalva's release and the full text of the letter are available [here](#).

### ***May 27: Rep. Grijalva Introduces the LGBT Data Inclusion Act***

On May 27, 2016, Grijalva Introduced a Bipartisan Bill to Include Voluntary Data Collection for LGBT Individuals. The bipartisan legislation requires federal surveys to include data collection on sexual orientation and gender identity. While some federal data on the LGBT community is currently collected, there is no centralized requirement in law ensuring that federal data collection on the LGBT community be a priority. The LGBT Data Inclusion Act would allow members of the LGBT community to confidentially provide survey data that will ultimately inform policymakers responsible for the public's wellbeing.

*“Public officials draft and implement policies impacting the lives of everyone living in the United States – it is vital that they have robust information about the diverse communities within our populace, including the LGBT community,” Rep. Grijalva said. “The current lack of sound data about sexual orientation and gender identity in many federal surveys means we are ill-prepared to meet the needs of these communities. To go uncounted is to be unseen in the eyes of policymakers, which is why we must develop a credible and confidential understanding of these vulnerable populations we currently know too little about.*

*“I commend the administration for convening an inter-agency working group to discuss best practices for federal LGBT data collection,” Grijalva continued. “This bill builds on the inter-agency working group’s success by making data collection within this community law. I urge my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join me in ending those knowledge gaps by passing the LGBT Data Inclusion Act.”*

The full press release and text of the legislation are both available [here](#).



*Laverne Cox speaks at press conference on the LGBT Data Inclusion Act*

### ***June 9: Lawmakers, Advocates and Pop Culture Icon Unite Behind Grijalva’s LGBT Data Inclusion Act***

On June 9, Congressman Grijalva led a press conference uniting lawmakers, advocates and a prominent pop culture icon behind the cause of ensuring the LGBT community is counted in our society by requiring federal surveys to include voluntary questions about gender identity and sexual orientation.

Actress and advocate Laverne Cox, Democratic Whip Rep. Steny Hoyer, Democratic Caucus Chairman Rep. Xavier Becerra, as well as LGBT Equality Caucus Co-Chair Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, Transgender Equality Task Force Chair Congressman Mike Honda and Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, all called for action on the HR 5373, Grijalva’s LGBT Data Inclusion Act.

*“While the transgender community is becoming increasingly visible in society, the Census and federal surveys continue to disregard our existence, and if you’re not counted, you don’t count,” said actress and LGBT advocate Laverne Cox.*

Rep. Grijalva’s full press release is available [here](#).

### ***May 16: Grijalva Thanks DOJ & Ed Dept. for School Bathroom Guidance on Transgender Students***

On May 16, Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva led 6 of his congressional colleagues – all members of the Congressional Transgender Equality Task Force within the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus – in thanking Attorney General Loretta Lynch and Secretary of Education Dr. John B. King Jr. for their agencies’ strong leadership in protecting the LGBT community from discrimination in schools and public facilities across the country.

*“Our nation is seeing a surge in extreme rightwing legislation targeting the LGBT community for separate and unequivocally unequal treatment,” Rep. Grijalva said. “The effort is exemplified by North Carolina’s HB2, which literally enshrines discrimination into state law.*

*“As a former university administrator and school board member, I understand the need for all students to feel safe at school. This administration’s response to prevent HB2 and others like it from harming students is vital in achieving that end. Between the civil suit in North Carolina and the joint guidance to schools nationwide, the Obama Administration is sending a clear signal that blatant discrimination will not be tolerated. Schools should implement this guidance immediately and ensure every student can focus on learning.*

*“Public officials like North Carolina’s Governor McCrory took an oath to serve ALL of the people of his state. He should repeal this law before its harm to the state economy, reputation, and even federal funding hurt the very people he vowed to protect.”*

The full press release and text of Rep. Grijalva’s letter are available [here](#).

### ***Pulse: The Intersection of Homophobia, Racism And Access To Guns***

In the days following the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida, Rep. Grijalva penned an op-ed addressing gun violence and hate in our society.

It reads, in part:

*The Orlando shooting was a homophobic and racist attack, perpetrated almost one year to the day after a similar attack targeting another vulnerable community at another place of sanctuary. Part of honoring the nine lives lost to a white supremacist’s gun at Emanuel AME Church in 2015 should have been taking steps to ensure a similar event never happened again. We didn’t then, and the question we must ask as 49 more souls are laid to rest and 53 remain injured is, will we do it now?*

*The seeds of hate crimes are sewn long before their victims are harmed, and the sad truth is that some in our society tolerate and even nurture this process. Every anti-LGBT policy proposal — from North Carolina’s H.B. 2 to the recent efforts by Congressional Republicans to undermine*

*LGBT protections — contributes the demoralization of our fellow citizens. Every right wing talking point smearing Mexican immigrants only serves to further demean an already vulnerable population. It's a not-so-subtle reminder that we have not achieved equality in our society, and that relative safety is a luxury afforded some communities much more than it is to others.*

Rep. Grijalva's full op-ed is available [here](#).

## **Serving our Men and Women in Uniform**

### ***March 24: Statement on OIG Investigation into Treatment Concerns at SAVAHCS***

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Grijalva confirmed with the Department of Veterans Affairs that their Inspector General's office would open an investigation into allegations of rescheduled appointments leading to longer wait times, high provider turn-over, understaffing that jeopardized quality of care, and retaliation towards employees who questioned practices at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS) in Tucson. The announcement came just weeks after Grijalva sent a letter to VA Secretary McDonald bringing attention to the matter on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

*"Allegations of subpar medical care at the VA in Tucson are truly alarming, and I'm glad to see the Inspector General's office is treating this matter with the importance it deserves," Rep. Grijalva said. "Our state knows first-hand what neglect at a VA medical center means for the veterans who rely on it. I will push for this IG inquiry to be as thorough and transparent as possible. We must ensure SAVAHCS is delivering the care that our veterans deserve, and that is a safe and productive place for the medical staff to continuing doing their good work there."*

Rep. Grijalva's press release and the text of his February 8<sup>th</sup> letter are available [here](#).

### ***August 31: Grijalva Leads Letter to VA Secretary Opposing Privatization***

On August 31<sup>st</sup>, Rep. Grijalva led the Congressional Progressive Caucus, along with Acting Ranking Member of the Veterans Affairs Committee Mark Takano, in sending a letter to Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald, urging him to oppose recommendations by the Commission on Care to privatize and weaken the VA health care system.

The letter reads, in part:

*We are writing to urge you to express strong opposition to recommendations by the Commission on Care that will weaken the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system and significantly increase the share of veterans' care provided outside of the VA. Proposals to shift funds to private contractors and for-profit care will take desperately needed resources away from our veterans, and should be rejected.*

Read the full letter and press release [here](#).

### ***October 25: Grijalva Responds to DoD Revoking Veteran Enlistment Bonuses***

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva reacted to news that the California National Guard was ordering veterans to repay large enlistment bonuses that were offered without proper authorization as long as a decade ago. Veterans who received the bonuses to entice reenlistment were being told to pay them back with interest or face the threat of wage garnishments and tax liens for non-compliance.

*“DOD must act swiftly to stop this unjust retroactive punishment targeting our veterans for the improper behavior of recruiters,” Rep. Grijalva said. “Our veterans earn every bonus and benefit offered to them through their service in uniform. This money was offered in exchange for tremendous sacrifice on behalf of each service member and their families. They upheld their side of the bargain, and they expect – and deserve – for the federal government to do the same.*

*“Asking veterans to repay money promised to them after years have passed is cruel, and the threat of ruining their credit over this is appalling. I cannot think of a more harmful message to send, nor a more disruptive and undeserved burden to place on anyone relying on the Department of Defense to keep their word. Congress should pass legislation to ensure our veterans are never again penalized for the DOD’s mistakes and going forward we must prioritize service members pay and benefits within our vast military budget.”*

Rep. Grijalva’s full press release is available [here](#).

## **Education**

### ***February 26: Grijalva Re-Introduces Legislation Promoting Dual Language Education & Family Literacy***

On February 26<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Grijalva re-introduced a pair of education-related bills:

- ✚ **The FLUEnT Act** (Families Learning and Understanding English Together Act) authorizes the delivery of family literacy services targeted to individuals in families with limited English proficiency.
- ✚ **The PRIDE Act** (Providing Resources to Improve Dual Language Education Act) supports the expansion of dual-language programs in low-income communities designed to enhance and assess the bilingual skills of low-income and limited English proficient children from preschool through grade five.

Rep. Grijalva released the following statement:

*“There is no greater avenue of upward mobility in our society than a quality education,” Rep. Grijalva said. “But an education is only as strong as it is accessible, which is why we cannot allow language barriers to stand in the way of any student’s opportunity to learn. The bills I re-introduced this week do more than provide English lessons to individual students – they ensure*

*families overcome language barriers together and support community efforts to make sure every child has an equal opportunity to learn.”*

The full press release is available [here](#).

### ***March 29: Grijalva Introduces Resolution Recognizing National Middle Level Education Month***

On March 29<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva introduced a resolution recognizing the importance of National Middle Education Month, which runs throughout the month of March. Grijalva, a longtime member of the House Education and Workforce Committee and prominent advocate for expanded education opportunities for all children released the following statement:

*“The academic achievement a student attains by the end of middle school has more impact on his or her college and career readiness than anything that happens during high school,” Rep. Grijalva said. “Yet the middle education years are largely overlooked in our national discussions of education reform. We must recognize these formative years for the pivotal time period that they are. We have a responsibility to ensure that the experiences of middle school students are at the forefront of educational debates.”*

Rep. Grijalva’s press release is available [here](#).

## **Voting Rights**

### ***April 4: Grijalva Praises SCOTUS Ruling in Voting Rights Case***

On April 4<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ) released the following statement on the Supreme Court’s unanimous decision in *Evenwel v. Abbott* upholding the principle of “one-person, one-vote” by ruling that Texas must continue drawing legislative districts based on total population, as opposed to using voter population.

*“American democracy belongs to everyone who calls this country home, and the Supreme Court reaffirmed that fact with today’s victory,” Rep. Grijalva said. “This attempt to draw lines for elected office based on voter participation was a blatant and shameful attempt to deny representation to entire swaths of people within our communities. Our nation learned first-hand that democracy for some is not democracy at all, and this attempt to empower some at the expense of others was just a thinly veiled effort to undo the progress we’ve made. I’m glad the Supreme Court rejected it outright, and the resounding agreement on this divided court speaks volumes to the merit of the outcome.”*

Rep. Grijalva’s press release is available [here](#).

### ***June 15: Grijalva Introduces Legislation in Response to Irregularities in AZ Primary Election***

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Grijalva introduced legislation in direct response to Arizona’s presidential primary election on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, which was plagued by lines lasting up to 5 hours in the desert heat and widespread reports of errors involving voter identification, registration and party affiliation, as well as complaints that polling locations were not easily accessible and lacked adequate resources, including ballots and staff.

The following day, Rep. Grijalva asked his constituents to share their experiences with him through an online survey. He used more than 40 firsthand accounts from that survey, as well as widespread reporting to develop The Voting Access Act. The bill requires the Election Assistance Commission to work with State election officials to establish national standards for the location and operation of polling places used in elections for Federal offices. These include:

- ✚ A requirement that no individual wait more than 1 hour to cast a ballot;
- ✚ Standards for determining the number of polling locations within a given jurisdiction;
- ✚ Standards for nondiscriminatory polling place locations, including assurance of accessibility for voters with disabilities and voters using public transportation;
- ✚ A minimum threshold for sufficient resources, which includes voting systems, ballots and electoral officials;
- ✚ Standards to ensure voters receive timely and accurate voting information, including polling locations;
- ✚ Best practices for preventing violations of election laws intended to stop intimidation or harassment.

Grijalva’s bill authorizes funds needed for states to comply with these standards. Lastly, the bill requires the Election Assistance Commission to provide Congress with a national report on party affiliation misidentification issues and recommendations on how to prevent further occurrences of it.

Rep. Grijalva’s full press release is available [here](#).

### ***October 28: Grijalva Calls for AZ Sec of State to Create Plans to Prevent Voting Discrimination***

On October 28<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Grijalva released a statement after news that 98 state and national organizations sent a letter to Arizona Secretary of States Michele Reagan urging her to create plans to prevent voting discrimination in Arizona. The request came just days before Americans took to the polls for the first time in 50 years to elect a president without a fully operable Voting Rights Act.

*“Arizona’s botched primary election in March already made the state a poster case for voter disenfranchisement,” Rep. Grijalva said. “We can’t afford a similar disaster on Election Day. So many voices within our state and around the country are calling on state election officials to ensure every Arizonan can cast their ballot free from intimidation or hardship. They must be heard.”*

*“Our primary debacle was a result of the Supreme Court’s decision undermining key parts of the Voting Rights Act,” Grijalva continued. “Arizonans know firsthand how harmful that decision was, and do not want a repeat or the possibility of something worse. The people are demanding assurances from election officials, and they deserve to have them.*

*“We cannot allow our Democracy to be undermined by those that think voter intimidation and disenfranchisement should be commonplace, and I thank those organizations that have called for the protection of voters in Arizona.”*

Rep. Grijalva’s press release is available [here](#).

## Protecting Your Earned Benefits

### *April 14: Grijalva Praises Dept. of Ed Response to His Call to End Social Security Benefits Garnishment*

Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ) released the following statement today after the U.S. Department of Education announced action to proactively identify, assist and protect Social Security benefits for borrowers with disabilities who have defaulted on federal student loans.

*“I am pleased that the Department of Education answered my call to protect Social Security benefits for those who need it the most” Rep. Grijalva said. “The announcement is a significant step that will ease the process of obtaining student loan forgiveness. Every day, people from across this country scrape by living paycheck to paycheck; earning a higher education should never add to their struggles.*

*“I applaud the Department of Education and the administration for making this issue a priority. Their actions will better the lives of people who are saddled with student debt. I encourage them to build on these actions by making everyone currently seeing their benefits garnished eligible for a loan discharge.”*

On October 21, 2015 Rep. Grijalva led a [letter](#) signed by 38 other members of Congress to the Social Security Administration, the U.S. Department of Treasury and the Department of Education urging them to stop the garnishment of Social Security benefits for unpaid student loans. In November, Rep. Grijalva introduced The Stop Social Security Garnishment For Student Debt Act, which reverses the 1996 law with respect to outstanding student debt, so that Social Security, along with the traditionally protected black lung and railroad benefits, can no longer be garnished for unpaid federal student debt.

Rep. Grijalva’s press release is available [here](#).

## Addressing Gun Violence

### *January 5: Grijalva Praises Executive Action to Expand Gun Background Check*

On January 5<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva released a statement after President Obama announced executive action to expand the definition of a gun dealer, requiring anyone who earns a living selling firearms to perform a background check before any sale. They also increase the efficiency of the federal background check system, call for funding to hire 200 new ATF agents, and invest \$500 million in access to mental health care.

*“All gun purchases should be subject to a background check, and I applaud President Obama for working within his power towards achieving that goal,” Rep. Grijalva said. “The American people have been consistent in their demands that Congress stem the bloodshed brought on by our lax gun laws, but the Republicans in charge have turned a deaf ear to all but one constituency: the NRA’s leadership. These politicians have become pawns for an industry that breeds violence, and the results are tragic, unacceptable, and completely preventable.”*

...

*“The NRA will try to say this is solely about taking away our Second Amendment rights, but that couldn’t be further from the truth,” Grijalva continued. “Their number one goal is maintaining gun sales, while the number one goal of Congressional leaders should be the safety of the American people. President Obama has taken steps today to rise above the GOP’s intransigence on gun violence, and proposed much-needed investments in our enforcement and mental health capabilities. I look forward to working with him and our next president to build on this success.”*

Rep. Grijalva’s full press release is available [here](#).

## Healthcare

### *April 14: Grijalva Leads Lawmakers in Urging FDA Action to Reduce Birth Defects in Hispanic Community*

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva joined a bipartisan group of lawmakers celebrating the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) [announcement](#) that it would allow the voluntary addition of folic acid to corn masa flour – a step proven to reduce often-deadly birth defects. Corn masa, or dough, is a staple in the Hispanic community, and is not currently fortified with folic acid. Grijalva helped lead a letter on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, urging the FDA to permit the voluntary fortification of corn masa flour with folic acid. That letter, including a list of all 42 signers, is available [here](#).

*“I am glad to see the FDA acted decisively on our request to approve folic acid fortification of corn masa flour,” Congressman Grijalva said. “This action can have a dramatic impact on Latino populations who suffer disproportionately from the heartbreaking birth defects associated with low folic acid intake during pregnancy. This is an equity issue – ensuring all pregnant women have normal access to vital nutrients will save lives, and I am proud to see it become a reality.”*

The FDA's announcement will allow manufacturers to voluntarily add up to 0.7 milligrams of folic acid per pound of corn masa flour, beginning on Friday, April 15, 2016. The FDA started allowing the fortification of wheat and other types of flour with folic acid in 1996, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have reported that since implementation, the rate of related birth defects across the United States has been reduced by 27 percent.

Read Rep. Grijalva's full press release [here](#).

### ***June 27: Whole Women's Health SCOTUS Decision***

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Grijalva praised the Supreme Court decision in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*. By a 5-3 margin, the Court struck down two provisions of an anti-abortion law in Texas – requirements that abortion providers have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital and that procedures only be performed at ambulatory surgical centers – which have already caused half of the state's abortion clinics to close.

*"The Supreme Court's decision today reaffirms every woman's constitutional right to determine what is best for her own body, regardless of where she lives or what financial means she has,"*  
**Rep. Grijalva said.** *"The effect, and intent, of Texas' H.B. 2 was to insidiously undermine a woman's fundamental access by imposing crushing burdens on providers, causing many to close their doors and leaving women in many parts of the state with no reasonable options to receive lawful care. Sadly, some undocumented immigrant woman are completely prohibited from seeking care altogether because they would be forced to travel to locations beyond immigration checkpoints.*

*"This decision is as much a triumph for the integrity of our Constitution as it is for women across the country. Our rights are not subject to the whims of politicians. In my home state of Arizona, anti-choice laws disproportionately prevent low-income women and women of color from obtaining a legal medical service. The effort by GOP-run legislatures around the country to undermine a woman's right to make her own health care choices does more than force a radical agenda on personal life decisions – it strips their own constituents of the protections this country prides itself on. I believe the American people deserve better than that, and I am glad to see the Supreme Court believes that too."*

The full press release is available [here](#).

### ***October 12: Grijalva Leads Letter to President Obama Over Rising Prescription Drug Costs***

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva led the Congressional Progressive Caucus in sending a letter signed by 43 lawmakers to President Obama, urging him to take executive action concerning the rising cost of prescription drugs.

*“It’s unconscionable that drug corporations are making exorbitant profits off taxpayer funded research while patients are being denied lifesaving medicines,” Rep. Grijalva said. “It’s time to update the rules so that drug monopolies will no longer control an individual’s right to a healthy life.”*

The full press release and the text of the letter are available online [here](#).

## **Congressional Progressive Caucus**

Now serving his fifth term as a co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, Rep. Grijalva has transformed the CPC from a loose group of lawmakers into a legislative powerhouse, influencing politics both on and off of Capitol Hill.

### ***March 15: Introducing the CPC Budget***

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva led the Congressional Progressive Caucus in unveiling the Caucus’ budget for fiscal year 2017. [The People’s Budget: Prosperity Not Austerity; Invest in America](#) provides major reinvestments in our country through infrastructure, education, and wage growth to increase opportunity for all. The CPC budget commits a \$1 trillion in infrastructure spending overall to transform our crumbling roads and bridges into a 21st century network, including billions for water lines nationwide and \$765 million specifically for Flint, Michigan, creating jobs and improving economic opportunities in the process.

*“The People’s Budget is a true expression of progressive values,” Rep. Grijalva said. “More than numbers and charts, our budget is a path forward for the American people who’ve had their wages flat line and savings erode. It alleviates our overcrowded classrooms where kids struggle to learn, and makes higher education a reality for any student committed to earning a college degree. It ensures profit motives and systemic inequalities have no place in our criminal justice system or our immigration policies. The investments we detail will create jobs, protect the environment and promote growth by requiring the wealthiest among us, corporations and Wall Street to contribute their fair share to our society. While Republicans continue fighting over how much more seniors should sacrifice, The People’s Budget shows that their harmful cuts are a false prophecy for American economic success.”*

The budget and full press release are available [here](#).

### ***May 18: CPC Applauds New Department of Labor Overtime Rule***

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva and his colleagues in the Congressional Progressive Caucus released the following statement after Department of Labor (DOL) Secretary Thomas Perez and President Obama announced the publication of the final rule to raise the overtime threshold to \$47,476. The previous threshold was \$23,660. According to DOL, the new rule makes 4.2 million more American workers

eligible for overtime pay. The Economic Policy Institute estimates it could directly benefit up to [12.5 million workers](#).

*“People all over the country are working longer hours, but their paychecks continue to come up short. The Congressional Progressive Caucus believes that in the richest nation on earth, no one working overtime should worry about making ends meet. This new overtime rule is an important step towards that goal, helping more than 4.2million Americans feed their families, pay their rent, and clothe their children. We applaud President Obama for standing with American families who deserve fair pay for their hard work.”*

Previously in January 2015, Grijalva led the Congressional Progressive Caucus in sending a [letter](#) to President Obama asking for an increase in the overtime threshold. The CPC hosted meetings with the Department of Labor and economists on the issue. The CPC also called for an increase in the overtime threshold in its [Fiscal Year 2016 Alternative Budget](#).

The full press release is available [here](#).

#### ***April 13: Op-Ed: The Next President Should Continue Obama’s Labor Legacy***

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva and Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky co-authored an op-ed in Time Magazine calling for the next president to continue President Obama’s legacy of progress for American workers.

*Every year, the U.S. government spends over \$1 trillion dollars on contracts, loans and grants with private sector corporations. The truth is that the President, as CEO of the federal government—America’s single largest purchaser of goods and services—has the power to harness this spending power to create good private sector jobs.*

[...]

*That’s why the Congressional Progressive Caucus is calling on the next President to issue a “model employer” executive order that awards lucrative federal contract to companies that pay a living wage of \$15 an hour, provide decent benefits and allow workers to form unions without retaliation.*

The full op-ed is available [here](#).

#### ***May 26: Applauding Accessibility Performance Measure in THUD Appropriations Bill***

On May 26<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva and the CPC applauded the inclusion of language encouraging the establishment of an “accessibility performance measure” in the report to accompany the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2017.

*“An investment in transportation is also an investment in new opportunities for any community involved,” Rep. Grijalva said. “These funds have the power to fix crumbling roads and help fight poverty at the same time, but only if we insist on them targeting the communities that need them most. The accessibility performance measure in the FY2017 THUD report will do just that, and I applaud its inclusion.”*

The Progressive Caucus has been pushing for an accessibility performance measure for some time. Last fall, the Progressive Caucus Co-Chairs introduced H.R. 3788, The Mobility, Opportunity, and Vocation Enabling (MOVE) Act, which would direct the Secretary of Transportation to develop performance measures that help ensure our transportation networks are connecting people to more job opportunities, providing a greater variety of options for getting around, and fully serving all Americans.

The full press release is available [here](#).

### *June 22: “Oil Is The New Tobacco” Forum on Oil Industry Deception Campaign*



On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Rep. Grijalva and the Congressional Progressive Caucus held a forum titled “Oil Is The New Tobacco”. The forum examined issues surrounding the fossil fuel industry’s concerted efforts to deceive elected officials, investors, and the American public on the reality of climate change.

Speakers included members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition, Kathy Mulvey from the Union of Concerned Scientists, Ed Garvey, a Former Researcher at Exxon, Naomi Oreskes, Harvard Professor and Author of Merchants of Doubt, and Natasha Lamb, Arjuna Capital’s director of equity research and shareholder engagement.

*“It takes more than a few companies with deep pockets to change the course of American politics,” Rep. Grijalva said. “It takes a party whose leaders are willing to protect those companies and repeat their talking points. Big Oil and their allies in the Republic Party have turned lies into policy for years, keeping sound science out of the debates where we needed it most. Allowing this scheme to continue will only ensure another decade of political paralysis as we inch ever closer to irreversible harm to the only planet we have to call home.”*

The full press release, video footage and transcribed testimonies are available [here](#).

### ***July 7: CPC Demands DOJ Investigation Into Police Shootings***

On July 7<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva and the Congressional Progressive Caucus urged the Department of Justice to conduct a thorough investigation after two black men, Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, were shot to death by police officers. The shootings continued a long trend of racially tinged police violence that came to the forefront of national discourse through the increasing prevalence of personal video cameras.

*“I am sickened and appalled at the images of Americans dying at the hands of the very people sworn to serve and protect them,” Rep. Grijalva said. “Police officers are officers of the peace – they are armed as a last resort when their own lives or the lives of innocent civilians are at stake. Nobody should feel empowered to act as judge, jury and executioner without any semblance of due process.*

*“I urge the Department of Justice to act quickly not just to investigate the incidents that took place this week, but also the alarming trend of police shootings in this country that happen without convictions or charges for those responsible. The public has a right to know what is being done to uphold accountability. We have a right to demand answers when time after time, black people are targeted by police officers’ guns. The credibility of our law enforcement is on the line and so is the credibility of our nation’s policies, which have neglected impoverished communities of color for generations.”*

The full press release is available [here](#).

### ***July 12: CPC Accepts Over 1 Million Signatures Demanding Assault Weapons Ban on 1 Month Anniversary of Orlando Shooting***

On July 12<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva led the CPC in accepting a petition signed by more than 1 million Americans demanding Speaker Ryan schedule a vote on legislation reinstating the assault weapons ban that expired in September, 2004. The petition, which was organized by MoveOn.Org, CREDO Action, Democracy for America, The Progressive Change Campaign Committee, Daily Kos, and Ultraviolet was delivered on the one month anniversary of the attack on Latin night at Pulse, a gay nightclub in Orlando, the deadliest mass shooting in our nation’s history. The Caucus released the following statement:

*“As we mark one month since the most horrific mass shooting in our nation’s history, the American people expect their leaders to protect them from a repeat event. We must vote to restore the assault weapons ban immediately to ensure the public’s safety.*

*“More than one million Americans demanded a vote on an assault weapons ban today, and we urge our Republican colleagues in Congress to listen. One common factor connecting Orlando to Newtown, Aurora to San Bernardino, and now Dallas too, is the use of these rifles. Our gun laws allow easy access to weapons that are explicitly designed to kill. The connection between access*

*to these guns, and their use against innocent people, is as urgent a problem for Congress to address as any other challenge we face.*

*“We are proud to stand with MoveOn.Org, Democracy for America, American Coalition for Responsible Gun Ownership, LGBTQ Taskforce Action Fund, Newtown Action Alliance and the more than one million people who understand that these weapons of war have no place on our streets.”*

The full press release is available [here](#).

### ***September 20: Responding to Wells Fargo CEO's Senate Banking Committee Testimony***

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva and his fellow CPC co-chair Rep. Keith Ellison released the following statement after testimony by Wells Fargo CEO John Stumpf before the Senate Banking Committee.

[MORE INFO?]

*“At today’s hearing, Wells Fargo CEO John Stumpf failed to take responsibility for the role he and senior executives played in creating a culture of corruption that allowed for the rampant exploitation of the bank’s customers. Instead, he decided to blame low-wage rank-and-file bank workers for a scam from which he personally profited to the tune of \$200 million How can executives claim to be competent stewards of the affairs of their bank, but not know or have no control over low-level employees?”*

*“When workers feel like they have to open new accounts, falsify financial information, or steer consumers into costly and unnecessary products to meet unrealistic sales quotas, there is something wrong with the way the banking industry does business. Aggressive sales quotas and low-base wages put in place by bank executives force many front-line bank workers to choose between serving their customers’ needs and being able to put food on the table.*

*“While we applaud the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s swift efforts to protect consumers, we still need an aggressive investigation from the Department of Justice into potential criminal violations. Furthermore, bank employees played a critical role in standing up for their customers, and should be protected for raising concerns. If Wells Fargo fired whistleblowers or employees who failed to meet their sales quotas, it should do what is necessary to make these workers whole. Furthermore, we must empower financial service sector employees on the job and allow them to collectively bargain. This will clean up the commercial banking industry and ensure that customers, and those who work for them, are treated fairly.”*

On June 14, 2016, the Congressional Progressive Caucus convened a roundtable discussion with bank workers that had been forced to sell products that would cause financial harm to bank customers. These workers testified about the toxic environment that exists in the industry where aggressive sales quotas and other exploitative compensation practices are commonplace.

The full release is available [here](#).

### ***September 28: CPC Introduces Resolution Opposing VA Healthcare Privatization***

On September 28<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva led the CPC in introducing a House Resolution expressing support for a robust Veterans Health Administration and opposing privatization proposals that would jeopardize comprehensive veteran care. The Resolution calls on the House to uphold policies that prioritize the health needs of our veterans over private business interests.

The resolution followed a [letter](#) the CPC sent in August to Secretary McDonald at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs asking him to oppose any recommendations by the Commission on Care to further privatize and weaken the VA healthcare system.

*“The nearly 9 million veterans who rely on our VA Health Care System deserve better than to have politicians gamble with the quality of their medical care,” Rep. Grijalva said. “Our veteran community’s needs vary widely, from complex battle wounds and emotional scars to simple ailments associated with age, and research shows that the current system out-performs the private sector in delivering their care. This resolution is an opportunity for Members of Congress from both sides of the political aisle to stand with our veterans, who by a rate of 80 percent oppose turning VA health care into a system of private sector vouchers.”*

The resolution is supported by the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, the American Federation of Government Employees, the Union Veterans Council, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and AMVETS.

The full press release and text of the resolution are available [here](#).

### **House Natural Resources Committee**

Now entering his second term as the Ranking Member on the House Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Grijalva has used his leadership post as the highest ranking Democrat on the Committee to focus on protecting and conserving our public lands, safeguarding bedrock environmental laws like the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Endangered Species Act and NEPA, and ensuring that we keep faith as a nation with Native American communities throughout the United States.

### ***Protecting America’s Best Idea: Our National Parks***

Rep. Grijalva wants to continue to protect some of our nation's most sensitive landscapes and diversify the story enshrined in our public lands.

### ***Urging Militia Members to Surrender to Law Enforcement in Oregon***

On January 7, 2016, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) and Rep. Grijalva urged the armed militia members in Oregon to end their takeover of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and surrender peacefully to law enforcement officials. Pelosi and Hoyer cosponsored [Rep. Grijalva’s resolution](#), formally designated H. Res. 575, alongside 20 other Democrats as of this afternoon.

### ***Forum on the Dangers of Extremism on Public Lands***

On September 10, 2016, Rep. Grijalva and Homeland Security Committee Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-Miss.) [held a joint forum on the dangers of extremism on public lands](#) because analyses showed that attacks on federal land management officials and events like the armed takeover of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge are becoming increasingly common.

### ***Building a Network of Diverse Conservation Leaders***

Our nation's diversity has been and will always be our greatest strength. Rep. Grijalva believes our system of parks and public lands should reflect the diversity of our nation's history, people, and cultures. He along with a group of Democrats are committed to finding ways to engage all segments of our population so that they become active users, managers, and supporters of public lands.

### ***Making National Parks More Accessible to all Americans***

On April 27, 2016, Rep. Grijalva and a new coalition of diversity leaders [held a press conference](#) at the U.S. Capitol to urge President Obama to take critical steps toward making national parks and other public lands more accessible to all Americans. The coalition – comprised of diversity leaders from civil rights, environmental justice, conservation and community organizations – echoed a [letter](#) signed by 34 House Democrats that urged the National Park Service to focus on diversity and inclusion as it prepares for its 100th anniversary celebration.

### ***Stopping Attacks on Wildlife***

Maintaining biological diversity is critical to sustaining human life on earth. The ecosystems that support other species support us as well, and utilizing these landscapes and associated resources sustainably is critical to the continued survival of our species. Rep. Grijalva wants to see more species delisted, but understands that in order to delist species you must first recover them. He believes additional resources toward science and recovery efforts are necessary.

### ***Red Wolf Revival: The Opportunities and Challenges of Recovering Endangered Species***

On March 2, 2016, Rep. Grijalva [hosted a panel](#) of experts that discussed the opportunities and challenges of recovering endangered and threatened species to ensure that they are able to survive on their own in the wild.

### ***Grizzlies, Wolves and the ESA Forum***

On April 20, 2016, Rep. Grijalva [hosted a briefing](#) that provided an overview of the legal responsibility and scientific necessity for strong and effective Endangered Species Act protections. Panelists talked about how grizzly bears and gray wolves once lived in much of western North America, but were hunted ruthlessly and extirpated over most of their range, but are now making a successful comeback in some of their former habitat due to strong conservation efforts.



*Rep. Grijalva with panelists on grizzly bear and grey wolf hearing*

#### ***Briefing with E.O. Wilson on the Benefits of Biodiversity and the ESA***

On May 18, 2016, Rep. Grijalva held [a forum](#) with a coalition of conservation, environmental and wildlife organizations are holding a briefing featuring E.O. Wilson, PhD, a renowned scientist and environmentalists, on the benefits of biodiversity and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on Capitol Hill. The briefing focused on the benefits biodiversity provides in agricultural production, ecosystem services, clean air and water, medicine, and climate regulation.

#### ***Discovery's Sonic Sea: Screening and Panel Discussion***

On June 8, 2016, the Committee held a [screening and discussion](#) of “Sonic Sea”, a documentary that explores the harmful impacts of rising noise levels in the Earth’s oceans.

#### ***Report on Wildlife Trophy Hunting***

On June 13, 2016 the Committee issued a report that showed that despite the claims of wildlife trophy hunting promoters, there is little evidence to show that the practice has benefited hunted species’ survival in several African countries. The [report, titled “Missing The Mark: African trophy hunting fails to show consistent conservation benefits,”](#) finds that major hunted species – including the African lion, the African elephant, the leopard, and the white and black rhinoceros – have largely suffered from a combination of African countries’ lax conservation enforcement and frequent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service failures to demand relevant information before approving trophy hunting imports under the Endangered Species Act.

#### ***Fighting Against Big Industry Pollution & Fracking***

The quality of our environment and the sustainable economic benefits that come from other uses of our oceans, such as tourism and recreation, are more important than allowing the oil industry to drill along every mile of our coastline. Rep. Grijalva and Democrats are fighting to implement the most immediate and practical solutions now, rather than waiting and paying a higher price later.

### *[Addressing the Abandoned Mine Problem](#)*

On January 7, 2016, Rep Grijalva introduced the [Abandoned Mine Reclamation Safety Act \(H.R. 4323\)](#), which would direct the Department of the Interior to promulgate regulations for the safe and environmentally responsible reopening of abandoned mines in order to facilitate the cleanup or remediation of conditions at them. Due to the inaction on his bill, on March 24, 2016, Rep. Grijalva and five Democrats on the Committee [requested a hearing](#) on two bills that would allow abandoned mines to be tackled head-on, and asks that Democrats and Republicans work together to develop a comprehensive and meaningful solution to the problem of abandoned hardrock mines.

### *[The “Preventing Preventable Earthquakes Act” to Prompt Fracking Standards](#)*

On December 8, 2016, Rep. Grijalva [introduced the “Preventing Preventable Earthquakes Act,”](#) which directs federal or state officials to prevent manmade earthquakes of the kind that has plagued Oklahoma in recent years. The bill would ensure that Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt would address the issue as head of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Trump administration – a step he refused to take as attorney general.

### *[Addressing the Debt Crisis in Puerto Rico](#)*

Rep. Grijalva was essential in drafting the PROMESA Act (H.R. 5278), the bill aimed to address Puerto Rico’s debt crisis.

### *[How Major Spending Cuts in Puerto Rico Have Left the Island Vulnerable to Zika](#)*

On May 5, 2017, the Committee released [a report](#) showing that devastating budget cuts imposed in the wake of Puerto Rico’s \$72 billion financial crisis have left Puerto Rico vulnerable to the Zika virus. As Congress considers legislation to help the 3.5 million American citizens living on the island emerge from this humanitarian crisis, it is clear that further cuts could be dangerous and cost more than they would save.



*Rep. Grijalva toured Caritas de Puerto Rico, a social service agency*

#### ***Rep. Grijalva Traveled to Puerto Rico***

On May 9, 2016, [Rep. Grijalva traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico](#) to meet with Puerto Rican government elected officials and community leaders on the Commonwealth's \$72 billion debt crisis. The purpose of the trip was to ensure the legislation proposed by Congress is in line with helping the families living on the island emerge from the current crisis and offers Puerto Rico a substantive recovery plan that will lead to future growth.

#### ***Puerto Rico Bill Dropped GOP's Wildlife Refuge Transfer***

On May 15, 2016, Rep. Grijalva succeeded in removing a Republican-backed provision from the Puerto Rico bill that would have transferred ownership of part of a federal wildlife refuge to the Puerto Rican government. Rep. Grijalva worked with a diverse coalition of environmental and Hispanic advocacy groups to mobilize in opposition of the Vieques land transfer.

#### ***PROMESA Act***

On June 9, 2016, the PROMESA Act, the bill designed to help Puerto Rico restructure its debt and tackle the fiscal crisis, [passed on the House Floor with bipartisan support](#). Rep. Grijalva was clear that it wasn't a bill he or Democrats would have written, but it was a bipartisan effort aimed to help the 3.5 million American Citizens in Puerto Rico.

#### ***Tackling Key Environmental Justice Issues***

The science is indisputable – climate change is real, and it is affecting people around the world. Human activities are causing glaciers to melt and sea levels to rise, putting water and food resources at risk.

Rep. Grijalva believes Congress needs to tackle climate change at its root cause: pollution from burning fossil fuels. But even as it pushes for pollution limits and a conversion to clean energy, there is an urgent need to help communities adapt to a changing climate. This includes water-saving strategies, flood controls, and other solutions to climate-related risks.



*Rep. Grijalva addressed a forum on Forum on addressing the climate refugee crisis*

#### ***Forum on Addressing the Climate Refugee Crisis***

On May 17, 2016, Rep. Grijalva [held a forum on climate refugees](#) that allowed attendees to hear first-hand from people who are struggling with the impacts of climate change and in danger of becoming some of America's first climate refugees.

#### ***Human Trafficking in the Fishing Industry Forum***

On December 6, 2016, Rep. Grijalva hosted [a Capitol Hill forum](#) to examine the scope of human trafficking in the seafood industry and potential policy remedies. Rep. Grijalva and several policy experts will discuss labor standards in domestic and foreign fisheries and ways to eradicate human slavery from the seafood industry. On December 13, 2016, Rep. Grijalva and other Democrats [sent a letter](#) to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) demanding overdue enforcement against widely reported incidents of human trafficking in U.S. waters by commercial fishing vessels.

### ***Standing in Solidarity with Standing Rock Against the Dakota Access Pipeline***

Led by Rep. Grijalva, Democrats on the Committee are dedicated to stopping the nearly 1,200-mile North Dakota Pipeline that would go through sacred burial grounds located on ancestral Treaty lands and could endanger the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's main water source.

#### ***Grijalva Traveled to North Dakota to Protest Against DAPL Pipeline***

On September 11, 2016, Rep. Grijalva [traveled to North Dakota](#) in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe against construction of the Dakota Access pipeline. During his visit he met with Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Chairman Dave Archambault II and toured the Standing Rock Sioux camp.



*Rep. Grijalva meets with Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Chairman David Archambault*

#### ***Forum on Protecting Native Land and Resources, Rejecting North Dakota Pipeline***

On September 20, 2016, Rep. Grijalva and Rep. Ruiz [hosted a forum in Washington, D.C.](#) on the proposed Dakota Access Pipeline project. Democratic lawmakers heard remarks from Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Chairman David Archambault, tribal leaders, youth, and respected elders on their efforts to protect the rights, health, safety and culture of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and other Lakota nations in North Dakota. On September 13, 2016, Reps. Grijalva and Ruiz (D-Calif.) sent a [letter](#) requesting an oversight hearing on whether federal agencies followed policies regarding the preservation of sacred sites and meaningful tribal consultation for development on or near tribal land.



*Ranking Member Rep. Grijalva and Rep. Ruiz thank panelists for attending a forum on the Dakota Access Pipeline project*

### ***Giving Tribal Nations a Voice in Congress***

The trust relationship between tribes and the federal government has many different forms. One of these relationships involves tribal consultation, which is the process by which federal agencies consult with tribal governments when federal activities have tribal impacts. Rep. Grijalva is fighting to better define consultation as the process of seeking, discussing, and considering the views of tribes on federal activities with tribal impacts, and seeking mutually agreed upon courses of action whenever possible.

### ***Press Conference to Call for Grand Canyon Protections***

On September 26, 2016, Rep. Grijalva calls on the Obama Administration to act on his bill, the [Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act](#) that would protect the Grand Canyon from new uranium mining and establish a national monument that reflects the long history and deep cultural roots of the region's Native American tribes.



*Rep. Grijalva spoke at the 2016 NCAI Annual Convention & Marketplace in Phoenix, Arizona on October 10, 2016*

### ***Report on Devastating Water Rights Settlements in Indian Country Across the U.S.***

On October 11, 2016, the Committee released [a report titled “Water Delayed is Water Denied: How Congress Has Blocked Access to Water for Native Families”](#) that found that nearly 48 percent of U.S. homes on Native American land – in contrast to less than 1 percent of U.S. homes overall – do not have access to reliable water sources, clean drinking water or basic sanitation, a problem exacerbated by the refusal of today's Republican congressional majority to approve water rights settlements.

### ***The RESPECT Act***

On June 14, 2016, Rep. Grijalva introduced the [RESPECT Act](#), which codifies the goals of the Clinton Executive Order by specifying standard consultation procedures for all agencies to follow and providing recourse for tribes when agencies violate their consultation obligation.

### ***The Creating Great Bend of the Gila National Monument Bill***

On June 22, 2016, Rep. Grijalva [introduced the Great Bend of the Gila National Monument Act](#) to designate a national monument on approximately 85,000 acres of federal land in Southern Arizona. The area identified by the bill includes a heavy concentration of cultural and historical resources, including many sites considered sacred to local Native American tribes. Archaeological remains, including petroglyphs and rock art, of Hohokam, Patayan, and Mimbres communities run along the Gila River.

## **Animal Rights**

### ***February 24: Urging Strong Enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act***

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva wrote Department of Agriculture Acting Deputy Administrator for Animal Care Bernadette Juarez to urge strong enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act.

Grijalva's letter reads, in part:

*One particularly prominent example that has brought this decades-long issue to light is that of Nosey, an African circus elephant that has suffered chronic violations of the AWA with repeated noncompliance of the regulations governing veterinary care, handling, housing, and husbandry. Despite these violations and evidence of deteriorating health conditions, Nosey remains with an exhibitor with little incentive to improve her quality of life and minimize her risk to public safety.*

*I was pleased to learn from Assistant Secretary Batta that APHIS has completed and is now reviewing a revision of AWA penalty guidelines, I challenge your office to take this opportunity to survey in depth the structures governing AWA enforcement and to take swift action on needed reforms. This could impact Nosey's and other animals current status and ensure they receive the humane treatment they deserve. Congratulations once again on your new role, and I look forward to working with you and your staff on this issue.*

Rep. Grijalva's letter is available [here](#).

### ***November 16: Grijalva Leads Lawmakers' Call for End to Circus Captivity of Exotic Animals***

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Grijalva introduced the Traveling Exotic Animal & Public Safety Protection Act, legislation that would prohibit traveling circuses from holding exotic animals such as lions, tigers and elephants in captivity. Studies over the past 20 years have shown that the mobile accommodations circuses rely on cannot provide animals with the facilities needed to maintain their health and welfare.

Furthermore, placing stressed exotic animals in close proximity to audiences creates a public safety risk that has claimed the lives of circus workers and attendees alike.

*“The captivity of exotic animals has proven over the years to be torturous to some of the most majestic creatures on Earth, and downright dangerous for the people who come to see them,”*  
**Rep. Grijalva said.** *“A growing public understanding of the detrimental impacts on animals and the risks posed to attendees has already changed the face of circuses in America. It is imperative that we meet the call to end this practice once and for all.”*

The legislation comes as the lawmakers host a Lion Arc film screening and panel on Capitol Hill. The film covers the dramatic rescue of 25 lions from circus captivity in Bolivia after similar legislation to the Traveling Exotic Animal & Public Safety Protection Act passed into law there.

The Traveling Exotic Animal & Public Safety Protection Act follows actions by Ringling Brothers to retire their circus elephants and SeaWorld to end performing Orca shows and breeding. Thirty-four diverse countries around the world and 63 cities and counties in the United States already prohibit use of animals in circuses.

Rep. Grijalva’s press release is available [here](#).

## Op-Eds

### *January 21: Grijalva in Time Magazine: Citizens United Undermines Our Democracy*

**Excerpt:** In less than two weeks, voters in Iowa will cast the first ballots of the 2016 election. As county clerks tally their votes, our nation will begin once again its loud, hard-fought, at times messy, but uniquely American experiment in democracy.

Nearly 240 years of relatively peaceful self-governance—of the people, and by the people—should make every American proud. But mounting threats to our free and fair elections instead leave many wary and disenchanted, if not outright disenfranchised. As President Barack Obama cautioned in his final State of the Union address: “Democracy breaks down when the average person feels their voice doesn’t matter; that the system is rigged in favor of the rich or the powerful or some narrow interest.” With today marking the sixth anniversary of the Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission Supreme Court decision, those fears have never been more well-founded.

Read Rep. Grijalva’s full op-ed [here](#).

*January 29: Rep. Grijalva in The Hill: “To ensure social justice, reauthorize the Historic Preservation Fund”*

**Excerpt:** In the 1960s, America did some deep and often painful soul-searching about what it means to be an American. Ethnic studies programs started cropping up in colleges and universities. Empowerment movements in the African American, Asian American, Latino, women’s, gay and persons with disabilities communities found their voices. Diverse people and organizations across the nation rightly saw their history as critical to the fabric of the U.S. and wanted their stories told. [. . .]

Unfortunately, Congress allowed the Historic Preservation Fund to expire with no clear timetable for reinstatement. Letting this fund disappear forever would be a major blow to social justice. Given its success, we should do more than reinstate it. We should fully fund it, for the first time, at the \$150 million for which it is regularly authorized. Anything less would wind the clock back on the decades of historic and social awareness it’s brought us.

Read Rep. Grijalva’s full op-ed [here](#).

*March 16: Rep. Grijalva in High Country News: “Fairy tales about the West are fueling public lands conflict”*

**Excerpt:** It’s easy to forget now, but when the Oregon standoff was at its peak, few Beltway Republicans offered a word of protest. All too often, we heard that a band of confused, gun-brandishing fanatics had legitimate grievances and good reason to invade a national wildlife refuge. One of my colleagues, Idaho Republican Rep. Raúl Labrador, a founding member of the House Freedom Caucus, even suggested they were engaged in a “peaceful” act of “civil disobedience.”

On Jan. 6, to restore some balance to the conversation, I offered a resolution of disapproval, calling on the militia to leave the refuge peacefully and surrender to local officials. My colleagues across the aisle ignored it, and not one Republican cosponsored it. Instead, the Federal Land Action Group, a coalition headed by two House Republicans, is continuing to conduct roundtables calling for the same kinds of federal property giveaways the Bundy group described as its main goal.

Read Rep. Grijalva’s full op-ed [here](#).

*March 26: Rep. Grijalva in the Sacramento Bee: “Congress should stop blocking restoration of Klamath River”*

**Excerpt:** While we recognize that some of our colleagues feel compelled to say that the Klamath’s dams should stay where they are – a politically popular stance in some corners – it’s hypocritical for self-proclaimed free-market, states’ rights politicians to block a private party from unloading assets through a longstanding, congressionally approved process.

It's long past time for the Klamath dams to come out, and for local stakeholders to begin the work of resuscitating a major West Coast river without being burdened by interference and obstruction from Washington.

Read Rep. Grijalva's full op-ed [here](#).

### ***March 31: Rep. Grijalva in Time Magazine: "How to Prevent the Next Oil Spill"***

**Excerpt:** While it's easy for companies to prioritize safety when oil is \$100 a barrel and the profits are gushing, at \$35 a barrel companies may start to cut corners and "seek efficiencies." Invariably, particularly for some of the smaller companies offshore, a commitment to safety is one of the first things thrown overboard when the financial outlook starts to sink.

The Well Control Rule is long overdue. Commonsense protections against another devastating offshore blowout are too important to be held hostage by economic scaremongering or pleas of "we've learned our lesson, it won't happen again—just don't put strong rules in place." The administration, thankfully, seems to have learned the risks of complacency and overconfidence. The industry, unfortunately, seems to be taking a little longer to get the message.

Read Rep. Grijalva's full op-ed [here](#).

### ***April 13: Rep. Grijalva in Huffington Post: "The Magnuson-Stevens Act at 40"***

**Excerpt:** Decades of overfishing in New England and the Southeast have rendered once plentiful species like Atlantic halibut and goliath grouper commercially extinct. It appears Atlantic cod may face the same fate, and other stocks have rebounded slowly or not at all. This is difficult for fishing communities and the fishermen who feel like they have made sacrifices, but have not seen results.

But calls to return to the same failed policies of the past, as envisioned by legislation Republicans forced through the House last year, are not the solution, and distract from the real problems facing our fishermen. Instead of looking back to the old days of fisheries mismanagement, we should embark upon the next 40 years with a positive agenda that strengthens both fisheries and fishing communities.

Read Rep. Grijalva's full op-ed [here](#).

### ***April 25: Rep. Grijalva in The Nation: Immigrants Are Dying in Detention While ICE Ignores its Own Medical Standards***

**Excerpt:** Last June, I wrote a letter to Attorney General Loretta Lynch calling for a Department of Justice investigation into the death of a man named José de Jesús Deniz-Sahagún. A Mexican national being held at Eloy Detention Center outside Phoenix, Deniz-Sahagún's life came to an end under circumstances every bit as desolate and isolated as his imprisonment in the Arizona desert. The 31-year-old detainee took his own life the day after a mental-health worker placed him on constant watch for

delusional thoughts and behavior. Less than 24 hours later, that evaluation was disregarded. Deniz-Sahagún was left unattended, and soon after, found dead.

The sad reality is José de Jesús Deniz-Sahagún's death is far from an isolated incident of medical neglect in an immigrant detention facility, as a recent report by the ACLU, Detention Watch Network, and National Immigrant Justice Center shows. "Fatal Neglect: How ICE Ignores Deaths in Detention" analyzes previously unpublished death reviews and demonstrates how egregious violations of medical standards by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) played a significant role in nearly half of the deaths for which the organizations were able to review documents. More alarmingly, ICE detention facility inspections before and after the deaths did not acknowledge, and sometimes even dismissed, the substandard medical care detainees were receiving.

Read Rep. Grijalva's full op-ed [here](#).

### ***June 16: Rep. Grijalva in the Arizona Republic: Creating Standards for Polling Place Access***

**Excerpt:** This past March, our state became a poster child for voter disenfranchisement in the 21st century.

Lines lasting three, four and even five hours in the desert sun are utterly unacceptable in a nation that prides itself as the foremost democracy in the world. Equally alarming are widespread reports of errors involving voter identification, registration and party affiliation, as well as plagued polling locations that were difficult for residents to access and not adequately stocked with ballots.

[...]

The day after our disastrous primaries, I asked my constituents to share their voting experiences with me to help in drafting legislation that prevents a similar situation from ever occurring again.

The experiences they shared — everything from erroneous registration after multiple-hour waits, to inaccessibility for disabled voters, to ballot shortages — all influenced the Polling Place Access Act, which I am introducing in Congress today.

My bill sets a standard that no individual shall wait longer than one hour to cast their ballots on Election Day. To ensure this, it establishes national minimum standards for voter access to polling locations, ballot information, and reaffirms protections from harassment.

Read Rep. Grijalva's full op-ed [here](#).

### ***June 17: Rep. Grijalva in The Guardian: "The Republican crusade against public land must end"***

**Excerpt:** The most recent development in the ongoing battle for our public lands is the recent introduction of the badly misnamed Local Enforcement for Local Lands Act. The brainchild of the House oversight and government reform committee chairman, Jason Chaffetz, a Republican congressman from

Utah, and the House natural resources committee chairman, Rob Bishop, also a representative from Utah, this radical bill would abolish the law enforcement divisions of the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and cede their authority to states and localities.

The bill's authors would have you believe that federal law enforcement officers are agents of an overbearing, omnipresent Gestapo out to crush any expression of freedom or independence in the American west. In reality, BLM has roughly 200 law enforcement officers – fewer than one for every million acres of land it oversees. The Forest Service has approximately one officer per 386,000 acres. The law enforcement presence on American public lands more closely resembles 1894 than 1984.

Read Rep. Grijalva's full op-ed [here](#).

### *July 22: Sierra Club Blog: "U.S. Representative Raúl M. Grijalva on Where He Found His Passion for the Outdoors"*

**Excerpt:** When I was a young boy in southern Arizona, the sky islands of the Santa Rita Mountains were my front yard, the cactus-strewn plains of the Sonoran Desert my backyard. My father was a vaquero, a cowboy, on the historic Canoa Ranch on the outskirts of Tucson, and I spent a lot of time with him as he worked the land. While we roamed the 4,800-acre property, my father shared his thoughts about the landscape and his reverence for the natural world. Although I didn't realize it at the time, those weekends in the desert sparked my own respect for big, open spaces and, eventually, an appreciation for public lands.

As I got older, I spent less time visiting the public lands that make Arizona such a great place to live. "Life" took over: I went to college, got married, started a family. When I got involved in politics—first on the school board, then on the Pima County Board of Supervisors—I had even less opportunity to enjoy wild places.

Still, those early experiences stayed with me. And, in fact, it was another outdoors experience with my dad that helped inspire my career as a legislator and fueled my commitment to protecting public lands across the United States.

Read Rep. Grijalva's full blog [here](#).

### *August 25: Rep. Grijalva in The Guardian: Private Insurance Companies are Destroying the Affordable Care Act*

**Excerpt:** Recent news of Aetna's departure from most Affordable Care Act marketplaces sent shockwaves throughout our country. One of the places the impact was felt most strongly was my home state of Arizona, where nearly 10,000 people in Pinal county may be left without a single marketplace plan. News that Aetna had threatened in advance to leave the exchange system if it didn't get its way in a merger deal is infuriating for Arizonans who are now completely vulnerable as a result of their ploy. It

highlights the systemic problems of relying on only for-profit insurers to supply our nation’s health care, and re-opens the debate surrounding a public option for health care.

The Affordable Care Act was continually debated and exhaustively scrutinized before President Obama finally put his pen to the landmark legislation in 2010. The process was thorough, but it was far from complete. Many people involved in the negotiations—myself a main proponent—argued for the inclusion of a public option within the system. Six years later, the public option remains as necessary to a functional system as it is absent from the actual law. We must fix this.

Read Rep. Grijalva’s full op-ed [here](#).

***Sept. 30: Rep. Grijalva in The Hill: “Dear Speaker Ryan: your ‘forward-looking agenda’ ignores climate change”***

**Excerpt:** Considering the much-touted centrality of poverty to Speaker Ryan’s thinking, you’d expect “A Better Way” to acknowledge the economic impacts of a changing climate. Unfortunately, not only would his agenda make climate change harder to combat, it would make life more difficult for many of the minority and low-income communities that climate change has already harmed.

As temperatures increase and sea levels rise, working families and those living below the poverty line will experience more severe climate impacts with less advance notice or preparation. Encroaching floodplains are already forcing vulnerable communities to relocate. American farmers and ranchers will increasingly feel the effects of shifting seasonal patterns. Continued greenhouse gas emissions will only intensify these and other stresses on the very people Speaker Ryan says he’s trying to help.

Read Rep. Grijalva’s full op-ed [here](#).

***Oct. 6: Rep. Grijalva in Univision: “Communities of color don’t find national parks as inviting as their white friends and neighbors”***

**Excerpt:** Our latest available data shows that only 9 percent of park visitors are Latino. At Saguaro National Park just outside my home town of Tucson, that number is less than 2 percent – even though the city’s population is 44 percent Latino. This was brought dramatically home for me when I recently took a group of local high school students to the park. It’s not too dramatic to say that many of them were stunned to see a national park with cactus-lined trails and beautiful mountain views in their backyard.

The National Park Service can do more to address this. Following a 2008-2009 comprehensive public survey, NPS announced in a report titled “Racial and Ethnic Diversity of National Park System Visitors and Non-Visitors” that, among other findings, “Only five percent of white non-Hispanics saw parks as unsafe, unpleasant, or providing poor service, even when they had not visited recently, whereas up to a quarter of non-visitors in other groups felt that way. Hispanic non-visitors tended to report the most adverse opinions of any group on these three items[.]”

In other words, communities of color don't find national parks as inviting as their white friends and neighbors. That perception will take more than goodwill to overcome.

Read Rep. Grijalva's full op-ed [here](#).

***Oct. 25: Rep. Grijalva in Indian Country: "The American People Are Paying Attention to Indian Country – Why Doesn't Congress"***

**Excerpt:** We're nearing the end of a congressional session that saw Native American sovereignty rise to the greatest national prominence it's had in decades. From the Dakota Access Pipeline to nationwide efforts to protect sacred land and historic sites, Indian country is finally getting a portion of the political and media attention it's long deserved.

Unfortunately, the Republican majority in Congress hasn't been interested. Over the past two years, the House has failed to fulfill one of its most fundamental responsibilities to Indian country: approving and funding Indian water rights settlements. These settlements are a crucial tool used by Congress to provide tribes with water to which they are legally entitled. Without congressionally approved settlements, many tribes lack the water resources to maintain public health and educational quality.

Read Rep. Grijalva's full op-ed [here](#).

***October 27: Grijalva in USA Today: DOJ Not Doing Enough to End For-Profit Prison System***

**Excerpt:** In August, the Department of Justice directed its Bureau of Prisons to begin phasing out the use of privately operated, for-profit prisons. The decision followed an agency internal review, which found that private prisons are more costly, less effective and more dangerous than those run by the government.

The Justice Department's five-year phaseout should be a significant step toward ending for-profit incarceration, which has for decades acted as an enabling force for both mass incarceration and the increased criminalization of immigrants.

The two largest private prison companies in the U.S., which together made an estimated \$45 million in profits from Bureau of Prisons contracts last year, have already felt the hit. GEO Group had lost nearly a billion dollars in value on the stock market less than two weeks after the announcement. Curbing the unconscionable practice of investing in incarceration is a good start, but to end private prisons for good, we must go further.

Read Rep. Grijalva's full op-ed [here](#).

*November 15: Rep. Grijalva in USA Today: Realign the Democratic Party*

**Excerpt:** Elections have consequences. We have to assume that some of Donald Trump's worst campaign rhetoric on race, gender and religion will be prominent in his policies and legislation as president.

By immediately hiring Stephen Bannon — someone who has thrived on right-wing conspiracy theories and hate speech — Trump has certified that the phobias he ran on are part and parcel to how he will lead.

It's not our responsibility as Democrats to give him the benefit of the doubt. Rather, it is to prepare for the broad public effort to oppose his worst instincts. To do otherwise is to embrace acquiescence and welcome more defeats.

Read Rep. Grijalva's full op-ed [here](#).

## Help With Federal Agencies

Congressman Grijalva works hard to ensure constituents get the services and benefits they earn from the federal government. Whether it's an issue with the US Department of Veterans Affairs, a delayed US Passport request, a late Social Security check, a missed Medicare payment, an immigration petition delay, a mortgage modification, or any other business with a federal agency, Rep. Grijalva and his staff are ready to assist.

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, call Congressman Grijalva's Tucson office at (520) 622-6788, Avondale office at (623) 536-3388 or Somerton office at (928) 343-7933 any time for more information.

### *Requests Received:*

Rep. Grijalva received over 1,524 assistance requests from constituents, these requests involved U.S. Office of Personnel Management, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Social Security Administration, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Banks and Mortgage Services, and many other federal agencies in 2016.

### *Requests Resolved:*

Rep. Grijalva closed approximately 806 cases with U.S. Office of Personnel Management, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Social Security Administration, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Banks and Mortgage Services, and many other agencies.

Help With Federal Agencies At A Glance	
Number of Requests Received	1,524
Number of Cases Resolved	1,040

## Saving You Money:

Congressman Grijalva's office saved Southern Arizonans more than **\$2.5 million** this year by recovering funds, getting checks released, preventing foreclosures and helping with agencies. This figure includes assistance with Social Security Administration disability claims, claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs, tax credit applications with the Internal Revenue Service, and mortgage loan modifications savings.

Tracking Misdirected Benefits Payments	
DOE	17,500.00
DOL	19,425.00
Foreclosure	1,969,295.00
HHS	445.00
IRS	12,699.19
OPM	929.16
SSA	233,616.64

USCIS	34,025.00
USDA	133,706.88
VA	90,000.00
<b>Money Recovered/Saved for Constituents</b>	<b>\$ 2,511,641.87</b>

## Constituent Service Success Stories

When our office is successful in addressing constituents' needs the results are priceless. Over the year, our interventions have meant that a benefit check arrives on time, families have stayed in their homes, families have been reunited, agency errors have been corrected, and Veterans receive the recognition they deserve. Allow us to share some of these stories below.

After being denied retirement and Social Security Disability, my constituents applied for Supplemental Security Income with the **Social Security Administration**. Since they were victims of a tax scam, Social Security Administration denied maximum benefits due to having an excess of income. With my office's assistance, the IRS was notified of the tax fraud and SSA received correct income information for the couple. They now receive maximum allowed SSI benefits each month and also received a retroactive payment of \$3,000.

Joseph was denied **Medicare Part B** coverage due to Social Security Administration. His request for equitable relief had not been resolved so he contacted our office to assist him in expediting his case due to his medical conditions. My office worked with the Administration to get Joseph's appeal processed; he received a favorable outcome and consequently received benefits with a corrected onset date of his Medicare Part B coverage.

***"I cannot thank you enough for all your assistance. You were diligent and proactive in following my case with the SSA and I really appreciate your help. Congressman Grijalva not only do you vote the correct way in the House, but your office provides excellent constituent service. Thanks again." Joseph***



Dear Raul M. Grijalva,

02-/20/2016

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the house located at the above address. I appreciate ALL the hard work you and your office team has always provided me. I consider you "my bulldog" who fights for me in times of severe crises and I will continue to support you in any political office you control.

July 21, 2016

Dear Congressman Grijalva and Tucson Staff,

I want to thank you and your staff for helping me solve a problem I was having with social security and medicare regarding my being double charged for Part B medicare coverage since October 2015. I had been trying to get the matter resolved using normal channels since early February 2016. During the period from February through mid-May, I had made numerous trips to the local social security office and numerous calls to social security and medicare. All I got for my trouble was a non-stop bureaucratic run-around and no results.

I contacted your staff on May 17 requesting help in dealing with social security and medicare. The folks in the office were very helpful and friendly. On May 23 I received a call from your office saying the refund was being processed. Social security made me submit several more forms, but I'm happy to say, the matter is finally resolved. I got a notice from social security dated July 3 saying that I would receive a check for the entire amount for which I was overcharged and that I would no longer be double charged for my Part B premiums.

I am firmly convinced that without your help, nothing would have been done to fix this problem and that I would still be getting the run-around. Again, thank you for your help. Also, thank you for doing a fine job of looking after the needs of this district and the environment. You can count on my continued support and my vote.

Yours truly,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.



Mrs. Ruiz, a U.S. Citizen, submitted family-based petitions to **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services** for both her parents. Despite submitting the requests to the agency at the same time, her father's application was approved without any delay but her mother's was denied due to submitting an outdated form. My office requested that the agency reopen the denied file since the agency failed to request a corrected form and because they approved father's petition despite having also submitted an outdated form. US Citizenship and Immigration Services reviewed the request and agreed to reopen and allow the submission of a corrected form resulting in approved permanent residency for my constituent's mother.

*"Thank you so much. I am forever grateful to you,  
Congressman Grijalva."*

In September 2015 a Veteran contacted my office seeking assistance with his appeal for disability compensation that had been awaiting a decision review for over 3 years with the Veterans Benefits Administration. Frustrated with the wait time at the **Veterans Benefits Administration** he sought my help; my office worked with the Veterans Benefits Administration on the pending appeal. In August 2016, the Veteran was awarded a retroactive paycheck from the Veterans Administration for over **\$107,000**.

The family of a WWII Army Veteran tried for over a year to obtain a copy of their deceased father's Military Service Records through the **National Personnel Records Center (NPRC)**. The family received notice from NPRC that their father's records had been destroyed in a fire and that a copy of his reconstructed Certificate of Service could be obtained for a fee. Dissatisfied with the correspondence received from NPRC the family reached out to my office for assistance. After contacting NPRC on behalf of the family, we were able to request a copy of the deceased Veteran's Awards. On September 16<sup>th</sup>, my office presented the overdue awards to the family.



Congressman Grijalva -  
As we reflect over the year  
and count our blessings,  
you were right at the top.  
Your valuable help and service  
are greatly appreciated!

Sincerely  
Tusken and Audrey

Thank  
You

*Please visit my website  
<https://grijalva.house.gov/>  
for more information on constituent services  
and how my office can assist you.*